

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 IO-13 /043 W
-----120838Z 014668 /11

P R 111455Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1829
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSULATE MUNICH
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USAREUR HEIDELBERG
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 111652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, CZ
SUBJECT: SPIES ARRESTED AND EXHUMED: GROHMAN AND ROHRER

REFS A. PRAGUE 0065, B. MUNICH 0047(NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: CZECHOSLOVAK REGIME HAS ATTEMPTED TO REAP MAXIMUM HARVEST FROM A MINIMUM OF SEED IN THE PLAY IT HAS GIVEN GROHMAN ESPIONAGE ARREST. RUDE PRAVO EDITORIAL AND FOUR-PART TELEVISION INTERVIEW WITH US ARMY DESERTER GLEN ROY ROHRER, (REF A) LASHED OUT AT

U.S. AND FRG INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES, BUT CONTAINED NOTHING NEW. WE BELIEVE TIMING AND NATURE OF ROHRER AFFAIR INDICATE AN ATTEMPT TO (A) COUNTERATTACK AGAINST US AND FRG MEDIA COVERAGE OF RECENT ALLEGATIONS BY CZECH DEFECTOR FROLIK THAT HAVE EMBARRASSED AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANGERED GOC LEADERSHIP; AND(B) TO DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM CURRENT "CHARTER 77" DISSIDENT ACTIVITY (TO BE REPORTED SEPTTEL).

2. RUDE PRAVO ARTICLE JANUARY 6 NAMED BOTH FRG AND U.S. INTELLIGENCE SERVICES, EXEMPLIFIED RESPECTIVELY BY GROHMAN AND ROHRER, AS AMONG THOSE WHICH WORK AGAINST CZECHOSLOVAKIA. LEADING FROM FACT THAT GROHMAN HAD BEEN CZECHOSLOVAK CHAIRMAN OF COMMISSION FOR COOPERATION

WITH UNESCO, ARTICLE CHARGED THAT ESPIONAGE SERVICES OF "SOME WESTERN COUNTRIES... WILL NOT HESITATE TO VIOLATE, EVEN GROSSLY, THE STATUTES OF THE UN, TO WHICH UNESCO BELONGS ORGANIZATIONALLY." COMMENT: IMPLICATION OF WESTERN COUNTRIES FOR WORKING AGAINST CSSR THROUGH UNESCO MAY BE SEEN AS A ROUGH ATTEMPT TO OFFSET THE CHARGES MADE

BY DRAFTERS OF CHARTER 77 THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA FAILS TO HONOR THE UN DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER UN CONVENTIONS TO WHICH IT IS A

PARTY. END COMMENT.

3. FOUR-PART TELEVISION SERIES JANUARY 6-9 MADE USE OF DEFECTOR AND DESERTER FROM US ARMY IN 1965, GLEN ROY ROHRER. EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO WATCHED INTERVIEWS ARE UNANIMOUS IN CONVICTION THAT PERSON FILMED WAS INDEED THE ROHRER PICTURED IN A 1965 LOOK-OUT NOTICE, ALTHOUGH HE SPORTED A MUSTACHE AND SEEMED THINNER THAN PICTURED. FILM MADE CLOSE-UP USE OF IDENTITY DOCUMENTS BEARING SAME PHOTOGRAPHS AVAILABLE TO US. ROHRER, WHOSE APPEARANCE WAS BILLED AS AN EXPOSE OF U.S.

AND CAREFULLY OMITTED DATES OF HIS INFORMATION. SPEAKING IDIOMATIC AMERICAN ENGLISH WHILE ANSWERING QUESTIONS PUT TO HIM IN CZECH, ROHRER

SAID HE HAD WORKED IN COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE (CIC) AND WAS A SPECIALIST IN LIE-DETECTION.

4. THE OVERALL IMPRESSION ROHRER MADE ON U.S. OBSERVERS WAS THAT HE DOUBTLESS HAD ONCE BEEN CONVERSANT WITH U.S. ARMY INTELLIGENCE MANUALS

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BUT IS NOW HAVING SOME TROUBLE RECALLING WHAT THEY SAID. HIS PRIMARY FUNCTION IN THIS SERIES SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN TO PROVIDE AN OCCASION FOR THE SHOWING OF FILM ATTACKING RIAS STAFFER AND WEST BERLIN TV PERSONALITY LOWENTHAL AND BAVARIAN CSU LEADER FRANZ-JOSEF STRAUSS, AND LINKING THEM

WITH WWII NAZI PERIOD AS WELL AS PRESENT CIA ACTIVITIES. FOOTAGE SEEMED VERY FAMILIAR AND WE HAVE BEEN TOLD IT WAS USED IN SIMILAR "REVELATIONS" OF PURPORTED CZECHOSLOVAK INTELLIGENCE AGENTS MINARIK AND SLAMEN BROADCAST EARLIER THIS YEAR.

5. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THIS MAJOR BUT NOT TOO EFFECTIVE PROPAGANDA EFFORT WAS CONCEIVED AND TIMED FOR MULTIPLE PURPOSES. AS ROHER'S BOOK,

NAKED SPHINX, APPEARED SOME MONTHS AGO, IT SEEMS LIKELY IN RETROSPECT THAT A THIRD TELEVISED "REVELATION" A LA MINARIK AND SLAMEN WOULD HAVE

APPEARED IN DUE COURSE. RECENT AND ANTICIPATED CZECHOSLOVAK EVENTS, AS WELL AS MOSCOW'S CURRENT EFFORTS TO TIGHTEN CONTROLS OVER

SOVIET DISSIDENTS, MAY HAVE HASTENED ITS APPEARANCE. THE ROHRER
INTERVIEWS ATTACKING U.S. AND FRG INTELLIGENCE AND LINKING FRG LEADERS
WITH THE THIRD REICH CAN BE SEEN IN PART AS A COUNTER, ALBIET A RATHER

WEAK ONE, TO THE 1976 FROLIK INTERVIEWS IN THE U.S. AND FRG ACCUSING
CZECHOSLOVAK OFFICIALS OF TIES WITH THE KGB AND DUBIOUS WARTIME
CONNECTIONS WITH NAZI OCCUPATION FORCES. WHILE GROHMAN WAS REPORTED
TO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED OCTOBER 21 AND THE LAST FROLIK INTERVIEW
OCCURRED OCTOBER 13, BREAKING OF THE STORY JUST AS CHARTER 77 WAS DUE

TO APPEAR--AS GOC MUST HAVE KNOWN IN ADVANCE--SEEMS CLEARLY TO HAVE
BEEN TIMED TO DISTRACT ATTENTION
FROM AND SIMULTANEOUSLY, BY IMPLICATION,

AND WESTERN INTELLIGENCE SECRETS, IN FACT REVEALED LITTLE THAT WAS NEW,

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USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 IO-13 /043 W
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P R 111455Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
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INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
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TO DISCREDIT ITS SIGNERS. MOREOVER, WE SUSPECT THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAKS

MAY HAVE ALSO FOUND IT CONVENIENT TO TIME THE PROGRAM, AND IN FACT THE

BREAKING OF THE OFFICIAL SILENCE ABOUT THE GROHMAN CASE, TO COINCIDE
WITH COVERAGE OF FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE

GDR JANUARY 4-8--TO POINT UP THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE "GOOD" AND THE "BAD" GERMANIES. IF EX-SERGEANT ROHRER AND THE FILMS OFFRANZ-JOSEF STRAUSS WERE THE BEST CZECHOSLOVAK TV COULD COME UP WITH, HOWEVER, THE

ARCHIVES MUST BE PRETTY BARE.

6. WE NOTE WITH INTEREST THE REPORT THAT ROHRER WAS OFFICIALLY REPORTED KILLED IN 1967 (REF B), BUT THAT HE PROBABLY CONTINUED TO WORK FOR GOC AS CONSULTANT ON LIE DETECTION. WE WOULD LIKE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAVE SEEN THE POLYGRAPH RESULTS FOR ROHRER AND HIS CZECHOSLOVAK INTERLOCUTORS AS THEY PRODUCED THE RECENT PROGRAM. BYRNE

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